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ABSTRACT

This book chronicles the educational struggle that took place in the city of Newark, New Jersey amidst years of political upheaval and economic neglect, focusing on Project New Beginnings, a 7-year collaboration between the Newark Public Schools and Bank Street College to restructure early childhood education. Organized in three parts, the book contains chapters written by or presenting interviews with public school personnel, Bank Street staff developers, or both together. Chapters in part 1, "Where We Come From," explore the history of Newark and its schools, and Bank Street's involvement in public education. Chapters in part 2, "Teaching and Learning," depict some of the changes that have occurred in Newark classrooms and illustrate that effective curriculum must be grounded in teachers' commitment to the world of which they are a part. Chapters in part 3, "Working Together," discuss how to bridge the distances between individuals and cultures, centering the discussion upon race and its intersections with class and gender, and demonstrating that successful partnerships require the articulation of difference and changes in the change agent. The book's appendix includes information on student outcomes on district and state assessments for the 1996-1997 New Beginnings kindergarten cohort. (Contains 117 references.) (KB)

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